

A Current Sentinel Provider's Testimony

"I am excited to be an Influenza Sentinel for the State of Michigan's ILINet program. Of all the requests for data and surveillance with which I am inundated as an Infection Preventionist, the call to be an Influenza Sentinel was a diamond in the rough.

You get to volunteer. Your providers know that these reports represent their community and patients. The hospital fulfills its role to be proactive in the community. You are a participant in a collaborative effort working in conjunction with the CDC to protect your local community, your state, and your country.

There is free lab testing available, weekly feedback on all the ILINet data submitted (regional, state and national), free online access to *Emerging Infectious Diseases*, and active participation makes you eligible for free registration at an MDHHS Regional Immunization Conference. With all the benefits that this program provides, I am excited to be an Influenza Sentinel."

- Kim Kibby, MSA, CIC, SC, SH, MT, PBT (ASCP)
Infection Preventionist
South Haven Health System
ILINet Sentinel since January 2015

Have questions? Contact the
Michigan Department of
Health and Human Services:

Stefanie Cole, RN, MPH
Influenza Epidemiologist
Email: ColeS4@michigan.gov
Phone: 517-335-3385
Fax: 517-335-9855

Or your Local Health Department

Michigan ILINet Enrollment Form

Your Name: _____

Practice Name: _____

Practice Specialty:

Check one: ☐ Family Practice ☐ Pediatrics
☐ Student Health ☐ Emergency Medicine
☐ Internal Medicine ☐ Urgent Care
☐ Infectious Disease ☐ Other

Address: _____

City & Zip Code: _____

Office Phone: _____

Office Fax: _____

Please supply an email address as it is the primary communication method with sentinel providers.

Email: _____

Will you use a case-based (manual tally) or electronic (EMR) method to report:

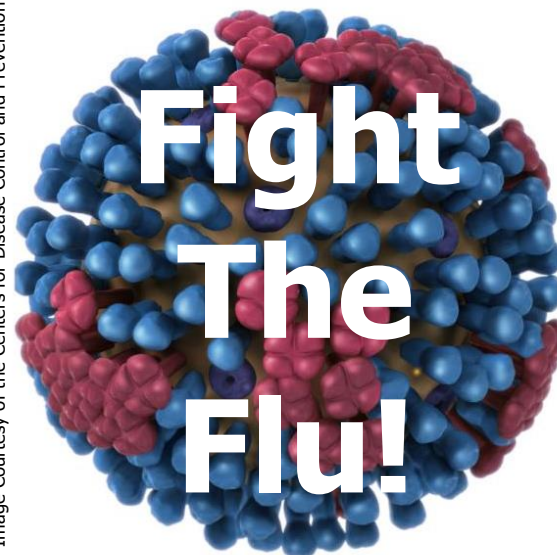
☐ Case-based ☐ Electronic ☐ Combination of both

Do you prefer your weekly feedback reports to be emailed or faxed to you:

☐ Email ☐ Fax

Please fax completed form to
Michigan Department of Health and
Human Services,
Attn: Stefanie Cole
517-335-9855
or email info to:
ColeS4@michigan.gov

Image Courtesy of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



Join the
Outpatient
Influenza-like
Illness
Surveillance
Network
-ILINet-



Overview of Influenza Sentinel Provider Surveillance

Influenza is a complex disease, and it's difficult to measure its true burden on the population. The U.S. Outpatient Influenza-like Illness Surveillance Network (ILINet) is a collaborative partnership between clinicians, local health departments, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The ILINet program assists with state, national, and global influenza surveillance by providing vital epidemiological and virologic data.

Why is Sentinel Influenza Surveillance Important?

- Influenza is unpredictable, and severity can vary from season to season.
- Flu is responsible for numerous hospitalizations and deaths in Michigan each year.
- Routine flu surveillance helps us know when and where flu activity is occurring, determine what flu viruses are circulating, detect changes in viruses, and measure the impact flu has on hospitalizations and death.
- Seasonal flu surveillance is pandemic preparedness. The 2009 H1N1 flu pandemic was first confirmed in Michigan by a sentinel provider.
- Data collected by sentinel providers assist in selecting virus strains to be included in the next season's flu vaccines.



Who Can Be an Influenza Sentinel Provider?

Outpatient flu sentinel providers may be healthcare clinicians from any specialty (e.g. family practice, pediatrics, internal medicine) and nearly any setting (e.g. private practice, emergency room, urgent care, school health center) who are likely to see patients with flu-like illness.

Only providers who primarily care for institutionalized populations (e.g. nursing homes, prisons) are not eligible to become sentinel providers.

What Are the Responsibilities of an Influenza Sentinel Provider?

Data Collection and Reporting

- Collect the weekly count of patient visits due to influenza-like illness* (ILI) by 5 age categories AND the total number of patient visits each week.
- Report data to CDC on a weekly basis via internet (preferred) or fax.

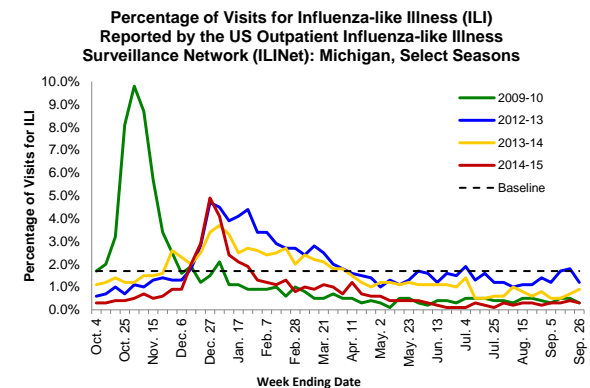
*ILI = Fever $\geq 100^{\circ}\text{F}$ AND cough and/or sore throat (without a known cause other than influenza); ILI visits do NOT need to be lab-confirmed.

Laboratory Specimen Collection

- Sentinel providers can receive **free** laboratory testing at MDHHS Bureau of Labs for ~11 specimens per site per year (optional).
- Collect nasopharyngeal swabs from a subset of your ILI patients and submit for respiratory virus panel testing.
- MDHHS sends providers lab kit supplies and pays for shipping.

What are the Advantages of Being an Influenza Sentinel?

- Weekly feedback reports summarizing your site's data, regional, state, and national flu data.
- **Free** respiratory virus testing at MDHHS Bureau of Labs for ~11 specimens per year.
- **Free** online subscriptions to CDC's *Emerging Infectious Diseases* and *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*.
- Sentinels who report regularly (i.e. at least 1/2 the weeks of the year) receive **2 free** registrations to an MDHHS Fall Regional Immunization Conference.
- Your community is represented in regional, state, and national flu surveillance data.



Become an Influenza Sentinel Today!

Last updated October 2015